

From: William Shepherd
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 1:07pm
Subject: the 'settlement'

1. On the face of it, the suit against Microsoft was ludicrous.

2. The suit against Microsoft sparked the current debacle we used to call a stock market. Nearly every pension fund and most investors were heavily invested in Microsoft. The senseless attack for political and business purposes was, in actuality, an attack on all of us. Microsoft only did what we were taught to do in business school... business, classic business.

3. That Microsoft is willing to lay out a tremendous amount of cash to schools in 'penance' is great. They should do that anyway. The government and the courts should be mollified and go away having smugly dodged the bullet whose name is, frivolous and malicious prosecution. Though we know it cannot just overturn such a highly publicised debacle, the loss of confidence in the system would be too large, we can back off on the punishment. In fact, the court did back off, now let's leave it lie. It was mostly a lie anyway.

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